Expansion of Air Services from Bhopal

†2124. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to increase air services from Bhopal to Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, etc., in view of abundant possibilities to boost tourism industry in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of its outline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines currently has no plans to increase air services from Bhopal to Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore, In any case airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country based on traffic potential, economic viability and commercial judgement subject to observation of the Route Dispersal Guidelines laid down by the Government.

Replacement of Outdated Technology used for ATC Automation System

2125. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ATC automation system in Delhi and Mumbai is using a 15-year old technology;

(b) if so, whether they are outdated and difficult to maintain;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to replace them with the latest system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The ATC automation systems at these airports were commissioned in 1999.

(b) and (c) Though the systems are not outdated, due to rapid development in the field of computer technology, the servers and workstation used in the system are no more under manufacturing and hence maintenance support is difficult to obtain. The systems are presently maintained with the spares available in the stock of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Yes, Sir. AAI has initiated various short and long-terms action plans for replacement of the automation systems at Delhi and Mumbai airports.

Distribution of Deepawali Sweets

†2126. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tradition of distribution of sweet packets to those travelling by Indian Airlines and also to its employees on the day of Diwali existed every year;

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuance of the above tradition this year;

(c) whether Indian Airlines would continue this tradition from the coming year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indian Airlines distributes sweets to the passengers on-tbe Diwali Day. There is, however, no tradition of distribution of sweet packets to the employees.

(b) There is no discontinuation of this tradition. The sweets could not be distributed this year as the supplier expressed his inability to provide the supply in suitable packing at the last moment.

(c) and (d) Depending on resources, Indian Airlines would like to continue this tradition in future.

(e) Does not arise.

IPO by Indian Airlines and Air India

2127. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National carriers, Indian Airlines and Air India are preparing for an IPO in this fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.